WAKANDA, AFRICA
MANY YEARS AGO
HONORED GUESTS OF THE GREAT KINGDOM OF WAKANDA...
IRON MAN, AVENGER, OF THE GREAT AMERICAN STATE OF NEW YORK...
...DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS...
...PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
...DOCTOR REED RICHARDS OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS FANTASTIC FOUR...
...KEEPER OF THE TERRIGEN MISTS...THE INHUMAN KING, BLACK BOLT...
AND PRINCE NAMOR OF THE GREAT UNDERWATER CITY OF ATLANTIS...
IT IS THE HOUSE OF WAKANDA'S HONOR TO INTRODUCE TO YOU...
...KING T'CHALLA... THE BLACK PANTHER.

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I'VE NEVER BEEN TO WAKANDA BEFORE, T'CHALLA, THIS IS JUST-- IT'S JUST BEAUTIFUL.
DOCTOR STRANGE, YOU MAY STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
IN FACT, SOME OF OUR HIGH PRIESTS WERE HOPING TO BREAK BREAD WITH YOU PRIVATELY.
WELL, THAT WOULD BE LOVELY.
AND THANK YOU, T'CHALLA, FOR HOSTING THIS.
AND FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT SUCH A GATHERING IS FOR. I'M DYING TO HEAR...
PLEASE, TAKE THE ROOM.
WELL, I WANTED TO DISCUSS WHAT ALMOST HAPPENED TO US THIS WEEK...
THIS PLANET WAS ALMOST DECIMATED IN AN INTERPLANETARY BATTLE BETWEEN TWO WARRIOR RACES...
THE KREE AND THE SKRULL ARMIES USED EARTH AS A BATTLEGROUND IN THEIR CENTURIES-OLD WAR...
AND I THINK--I THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OUR FAULT.
THE KREE-SKRULL WAR IS OUR FAULT?
WELL, WE KNEW ALL THE PLAYERS.
WE KNEW WHAT THEY WERE CAPABLE OF.
WE KNEW THESE ALIEN RACES HAVE BEEN AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER FOR-- FOREVER.
AND WE KNEW THAT KEY MEMBERS OF BOTH RACES HAD SET UP SHOP RIGHT HERE ON PLANET EARTH.
OF COURSE IT WOULD COME TO A HEAD. OF COURSE!
SO HOW IS IT OUR FAULT?

I WONDER--IF WE HAD A MORE UNIFIED STRUCTURE AMONGST OURSELVES--
--I WONDER IF THEY WOULD HAVE THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT ATTACKING THIS PLANET LIKE THEY DID.
WE WHO?
IF THE EARTH IS ATTACKED AGAIN... WHEN THE EARTH IS ATTACKED AGAIN...
...WE'RE THE ONES WHO WILL DEFEND IT. THERE IS NO ONE ELSE. NO ARMY IS READY.
SO, TO THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE WE'RE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OF THIS PLANET.
I'M SAYING-- MAYBE WE SHOULD GATHER TOGETHER AND DO JUST THAT.
AGAIN!
WE WHO??
THE HEROES.
US.
ALL OF US.
THE X-MEN, THE AVENGERS, THE INHUMANS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, EVERYONE ELSE...
WE SHOULD GATHER.
WE SHOULD MAKE OUR OWN DELEGATION.
INSTEAD OF THESE LITTLE FACTIONS OF HEROES AND MUTANTS WE'VE CONCOCTED, RUNNING AROUND DOING THE BEST THEY CAN--
--MAYBE WE COULD POOL ALL OF OUR RESOURCES AND ALL OF OUR INFORMATION AND DO IT RIGHT.
NO.

WELL, THANKS FOR THINKING ABOUT IT.
YOU CAN'T EVEN CONTROL THE GROUPS YOU'RE ALREADY IN.
HOW ON EARTH COULD YOU HOPE TO CONTROL THEM AS A LARGER BODY?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DISCUSS.
NO.
THOUGH NAMOR ALWAYS FINDS THE *RUDEST* WAY TO SAY IT, HE MAY BE RIGHT. IT'S TOO BIG.
IT'S TOO HARD TO DECIDE WHO WOULD *BE* IN THIS COALITION. WHO *DECIDES* WHO'S IN IT?
WHO *RUNS* IT? WHO WOULD IT *ANSWER* TO?
HMM. I AGREE.
LOOK AT HOW MUCH THE U.N. ACTUALLY GETS DONE VERSUS HOW MUCH TIME THEY SPEND JUST RUNNING THE U.N.
THE BEST SUPER HEROES IN THE WORLD WOULD BE SPENDING ALL OF THEIR TIME DEALING WITH BUREAUCRACY? I DON'T SEE IT.
I THINK, IF I MAY...
THE SKRULLS TRIED TO TURN THE PUBLIC AGAINST YOU. AND THEY CAME CLOSE.
IT'S A NEW FEELING FOR YOU, THAT KIND OF ANIMOSITY, AM I RIGHT?
WELL, YES.
AS MUTANTS...WE FEEL WHAT YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW...EVERY DAY.
ALL DAY.
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL.
AND YOU WANT TO TURN THAT FEELING INTO SOMETHING--SOMETHING *POSITIVE*--AND THAT'S *NOBLE*.
BUT THIS IDEA...
BUT DON'T YOU SEE...?

A UNIFIED GROUPING OF HEROES THAT INCLUDED MUTANTS COULD SMASH DOWN BARRIERS...
...INSTILL TRUST IN MUTANTS ALL AROUND THE WORLD.
WE COULD CHAMPION YOUR CAUSE AND AT THE SAME TIME...
IT WOULD DO THE OPPOSITE.
THEY WOULD LUMP US IN WITH THE MUTANTS AND HAVE AN EXCUSE TO HATE US ALL.
NO OFFENSE, PROFESSOR.
NO.
AND AS IT IS, MOST HEROES, NOT YOU OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR--BUT MOST HEROES...LIKE SPIDER-MAN, DAREDEVIL...
...THEY ARE REBELS. COUNTER-CULTURE.
WE'RE NOT ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT, BUT WE'RE NOT ESTABLISHMENT.
WE'RE COUNTER-ESTABLISHMENT.
I JUST THINK IT'S WORTH A TRY. IT'S WORTH DISCUSSING.
WE CAN MAKE THE WORLD BETTER THAN IT IS. WE CAN DO MORE THAN WHAT WE'RE DOING.
I WANT TO DO MORE.
YOU'RE A FOOL, AND HERE'S WHY.
HOW MANY CONVICTED CRIMINALS AND SUPPOSED EX-MUTANT TERRORISTS DO YOU HAVE ON THE AVENGERS RIGHT NOW?
THE SCARLET WITCH, QUICKSILVER, HAWKEYE, WHO ELSE?

HOW MANY QUESTIONABLE CHARACTERS HAVE YOU HAD ON THE TEAM ALL TOGETHER?
EXACTLY HOW DO YOU SCREEN THESE MUTANT STUDENTS YOU TAKE IN AT YOUR SCHOOL, XAVIER??
I HEAR RUMORS OF A MUTANT ASSASSIN WORKING FOR CANADIAN SECRET SERVICES.
WOULD YOU ALLOW HIM ON YOUR TEAM?
WASN'T BLACK BOLT'S BROTHER AN ARCHITECT OF THIS KREE INVASION OF EARTH?
ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'VE HEARD?
HAVE YOU KILLED THIS MAN FOR HIS CRIMES, OR IS HE IN YOUR CASTLE RIGHT NOW?
AND YOU WANT TO SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON ALL OF THIS?
YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT THESE PEOPLE UP AS ROLE MODELS AND DELEGATES FOR THE ENTIRE PLANET EARTH?
THAT IS COMPLETELY DELUDED.
UM...
...YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, IRON MAN.
THE INFORMATION.
WE ALL HAD PIECES OF INFORMATION-- LITTLE PIECES OF THE KREE-SKRULL SITUATION BEFORE IT ESCALATED.
WE COULD HAVE DEALT WITH IT SOONER HAD WE MET.
A MEETING JUST LIKE THIS COULD HAVE SAVED A LOT OF PEOPLES' LIVES--

SO WE MEET PRIVATELY. LIKE THIS.
FOR THE BIG THINGS.
I COULD SEE MYSELF TRUSTING THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM.
BUT!!!
NO ONE COULD KNOW WE DO THIS. I DON'T TRUST YOUR SO-CALLED--
YES, WE GET IT!
YOU DON'T TRUST OUR TEAMMATES. WE UNDERSTAND.
NO FAMILY.
NO WIVES.
NO ONE.
IF ONE OF YOU SHARED A SECRET OF MY ATLANTIS THAT CAME BACK TO HARM ANYONE IN MY KINGDOM, THE HELL I WOULD BRING TO THIS SURFACE WORLD...
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS READY TO ATTACK US?
YOU'D TEAM WITH MAGNETO WHEN IT SUITS YOU, BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE A CIVIL CONVERSATION WITH US WITHOUT THREATENING--
IT'S NOT A THREAT.

IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE TO THE CONVERSATION, NAMOR.
THIS IS BIGGER THAN US.
IF THE KREE OR SKRULL EMPIRES TAKE THIS PLANET, THEY TAKE YOU TOO.
SO STOP PUFFING YOUR CHEST AND CONTRIBUTE TO THIS CONVERSATION.
AND THE ONLY REASON THEY DIDN'T WIN THIS TIME WAS SHEER LUCK.
WE DIDN'T BEAT THEM. WE JUST STOPPED IT. FOR HOW LONG? WHO KNOWS?
BUT A CHILD WITH A FIFTH GRADE HISTORY BOOK COULD FIGURE OUT THAT IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN, AND WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
SO WE'D BE ON AN HONOR SYSTEM?
WELL, NO.
WE HAVE CHARLES XAVIER. YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM THE MOST POWERFUL PSYCHIC ON THE PLANET.
HE'D KNOW IF ANYONE HERE BETRAYED US. RIGHT?
I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THAT. THAT'S NOT WHAT I DO.
BUT...
...IT IS...
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE UNANIMOUS.
THOSE IN FAVOR?

T'CHALLA...
I'M TELLING YOU NOW: END THIS.
WALK AWAY FROM THIS TABLE AND GO HOME.
WOW, T'CHALLA--
THERE IS A REASON THE SKRULLS HAD SUCH AN EASY TIME TRYING TO TURN THE WORLD AGAINST ITS HEROES.
BECAUSE DEEP DOWN EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN, AND NOW IT HAS.
YOU JUST DECIDED ALL BY YOURSELVES THAT YOU ARE THE EARTH'S PROTECTORS.
AND THAT YOU, AND ONLY YOU, NOT YOUR TEAMMATES OR FAMILY, ARE TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH TO INCLUDE IN THE PROCESS...
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DISAGREE?
WHEN ONE OF THESE EARTH-CHANGING MOMENTS FINDS YOU ALL AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER, HERE IN A SECRET MEETING?
WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
WALK AWAY NOW.

WELL...
I ACTUALLY THINK IT'S ONE OF THE BEST IDEAS I'VE EVER HEARD.
I'LL TALK TO HIM.
IF IT DOESN'T WORK, WE DO WALK AWAY.
BLACK BOLT? I KNOW IF YOU SPEAK OUT LOUD YOU COULD BRING THIS ENTIRE COUNTRY DOWN AROUND OUR EARS...
CAN YOU READ HIS THOUGHTS, PROFESSOR? I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT HE'S THINKING.
HE SAYS HIS PEOPLE, THE INHUMANS, DO NEED THE CONNECTION TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND CAN TRUST NO GOVERNMENT.
THIS IS PERFECT FOR HIM AS HE FIGURES OUT WHAT THE NEXT STEP IS FOR HIS PEOPLE.
SO WE AGREE THEN. WHEN NEXT WE MEET, ANYTHING DISCUSSED HERE...
STAYS HERE.
I RARELY LEAVE MY HOUSE AS IT IS.
ANYTHING ELSE WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT NOW BEFORE T'CHALLA'S GUARDS HAVE US REMOVED?
ACTUALLY...
I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT AN ISLAND IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC...
IT'S CALLED KRAKOA.

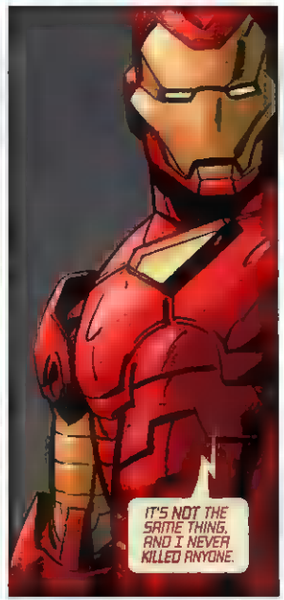
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
ONE MONTH AGO
HULK SMASH!!
WELCOME TO
LAS VEGAS
NEVADA

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, 1000 FEET OVER AKRON, OHIO
HOW MANY THIS TIME, COMMANDER HILL?
26. TWO KIDS AND A DOG.
HE CAN'T CONTROL IT.
WHO DO YOU THINK HAD MORE CONTROL OVER WHAT HAPPENED? THE 26 PEOPLE AND THE DOG, OR HIM?
THE THING I WANT TO KNOW IS...WHY DO YOU LET THIS CONTINUE?
ME?
LET?
ONE OF MY AGENTS WAS GOING OVER A REPORT AND [redacted] SAID TO ME--
--YOU KNOW ALL THOSE PEOPLE NORMAN OSBORN KILLED AS THE GREEN GOBLIN? WHEN DOES IT BECOME SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT?
AND I SAID, WHY WOULD IT BE SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT?
HE SAID, SPIDER-MAN'S THE ONE WHO HAS OSBORN BY THE THROAT THREE TIMES A YEAR, BUT HE NEVER DOES WHAT HE HAS TO DO.
HE [redacted] HIM UP, THEY THROW HIM IN JAIL, THEN OSBORN BREAKS OUT AND HE GOES ON ANOTHER HOMICIDAL RAMPAGE...
HOW MANY TIMES DOES THAT HAVE TO HAPPEN BEFORE THE WHOLE DAMN THING BECOMES SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT?
I SAID, IT'S NOT SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT NORMAN OSBORN IS NUTS.
HE SAID, THAT'S TRUE, BUT--IT IS HIS FAULT THE GUY'S STILL ALIVE.
COMMANDER...
I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO STOP THE HULK.
MY QUESTION IS, ARE YOU?
AND I GOTTA TELL YOU...
THE RUMBLINGS I'M HEARING ON CAPITOL HILL...
...THEY [redacted] LOOKING FOR THINGS TO BLAME ON YOU GUYS.

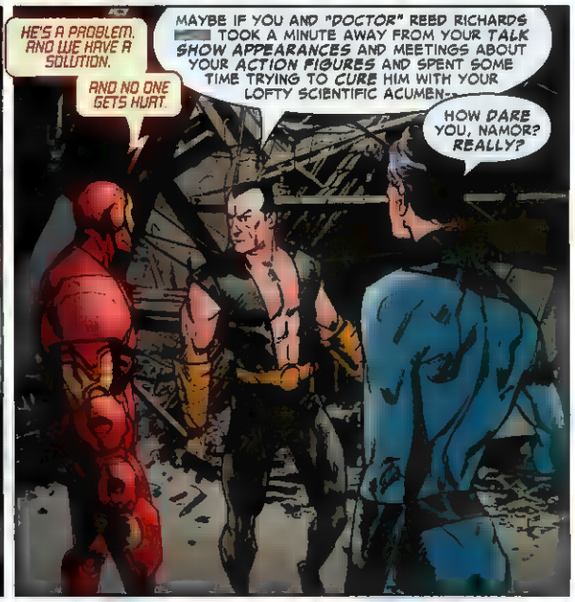
HYDROBASE, THE AVENGERS' FORMER BASE OF OPERATIONS.
INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE DYING BECAUSE HE WALKS THE EARTH.
INNOCENT PEOPLE [redacted] EVERY DAY, TONY.
SO IT'S OKAY, REED?

NO, I'M SAYING THAT [redacted] IS A NATURAL [redacted] OF--
ONE MINUTE BRUCE BANNER IS YOUR ALLY AND THE NEXT YOU WANT TO SHOOT HIM INTO SPACE??!!
NAMOR, THAT'S NOT--
BECAUSE ONE MINUTE HE'S UNDER CONTROL AND A HERO, [redacted] THE NEXT, LAS VEGAS IS DESTROYED!!
HE CAN'T CONTROL IT.

YOU USED TO HAVE QUITE THE DRINKING PROBLEM. MAYBE WE SHOULD THROW YOU INTO THE SUN?


IT'S NOT THE SAME THING, AND I NEVER KILLED ANYONE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WHAT DO YOUR PEOPLE CALL THEM? BLACKOUTS??


HE'S A PROBLEM. AND WE HAVE A SOLUTION.
AND NO ONE GETS HURT.
MAYBE IF YOU AND "DOCTOR" REED RICHARDS [redacted] TOOK A MINUTE AWAY FROM YOUR TALK SHOW APPEARANCES AND MEETINGS ABOUT YOUR ACTION FIGURES AND SPENT SOME TIME TRYING TO CURE HIM WITH YOUR LOFTY SCIENTIFIC ACUMEN--
HOW DARE YOU, NAMOR? REALLY?

HOW DARE YOU?!!
I HAVE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS TRYING TO CRACK THE GENETIC [redacted] THAT TURNED [redacted] INTO THE HULK.
NOT ONLY TO CURE HIM BUT TO [redacted] MY [redacted] BEN GRIMM AS WELL.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE THAT YOU COME HERE AND SPEAK TO US LIKE THIS??

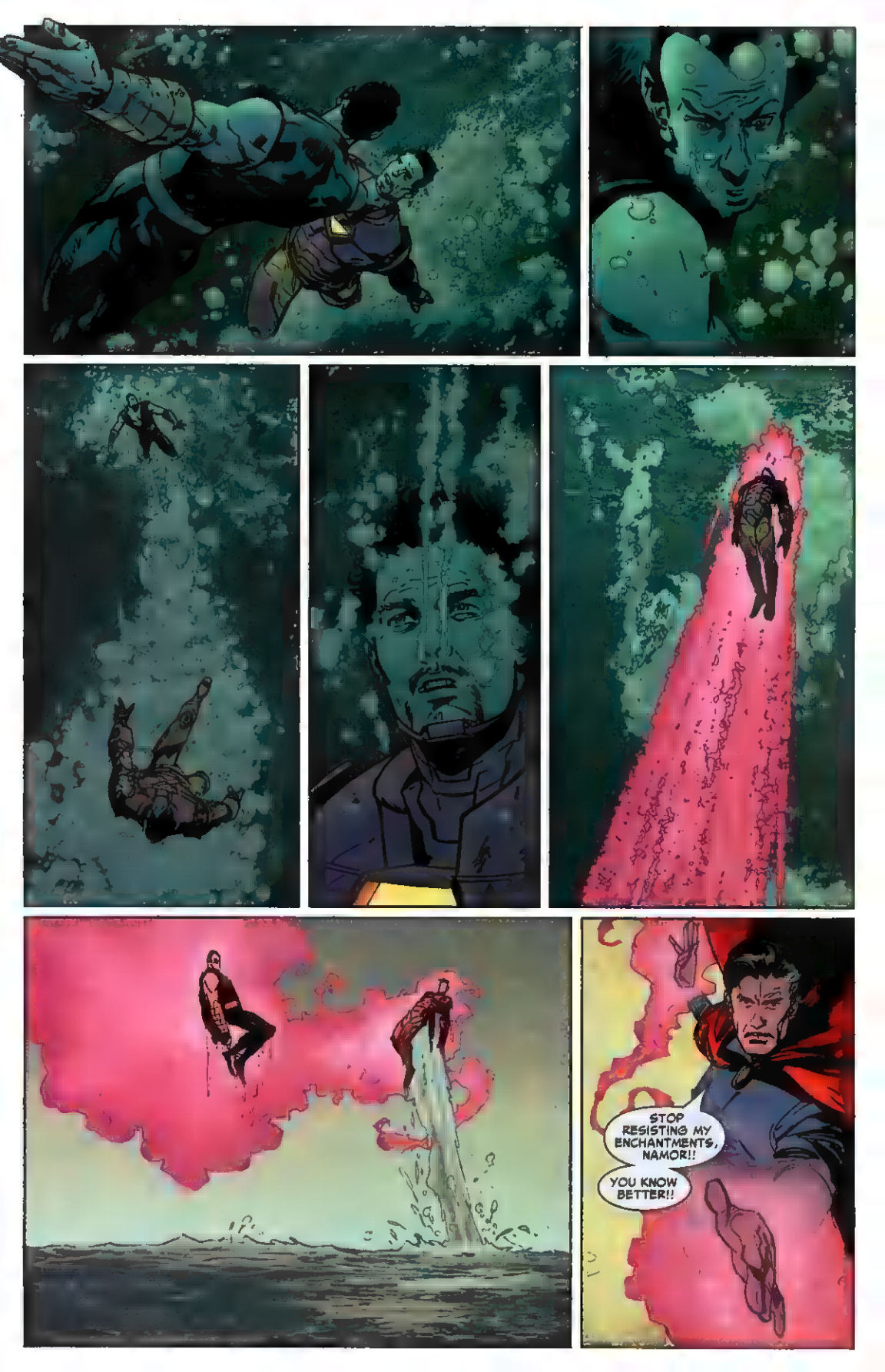
IF YOU KNEW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THE GENETIC SCIENCES, YOU'D KNOW IT WOULD TAKE A MILLION SCIENTISTS WITH A MILLION COMPUTERS A THOUSAND YEARS TO CRACK EVERY GENETIC SEQUENCE THAT MAKES THIS PLANET WORK, AND BANNER'S ISN'T EVEN ONE OF THEM!!!
I HAVE MET WITH EVERY GREAT [redacted] ALIVE ON THIS PLANET TO FIND SOME SORT OF CURE!
OR AT THE VERY LEAST, SOME SORT OF INVENTION WE COULD USE TO DAMPEN HIM!!

AND DOCTOR STRANGE HAS--
YES.
HE'S TRAVELED THE ENTIRE ASTRAL PLANE LOOKING FOR ANYTHING, ANYTHING AT ALL THAT COULD--
I TRIED TO BANISH HIM ONCE, TO THE CROSSROADS, BUT IT WASN'T AS SAFE AS THIS.
AND WE'VE SAT BANNER DOWN WITH XAVIER.
AND WHAT DID WE LEARN?

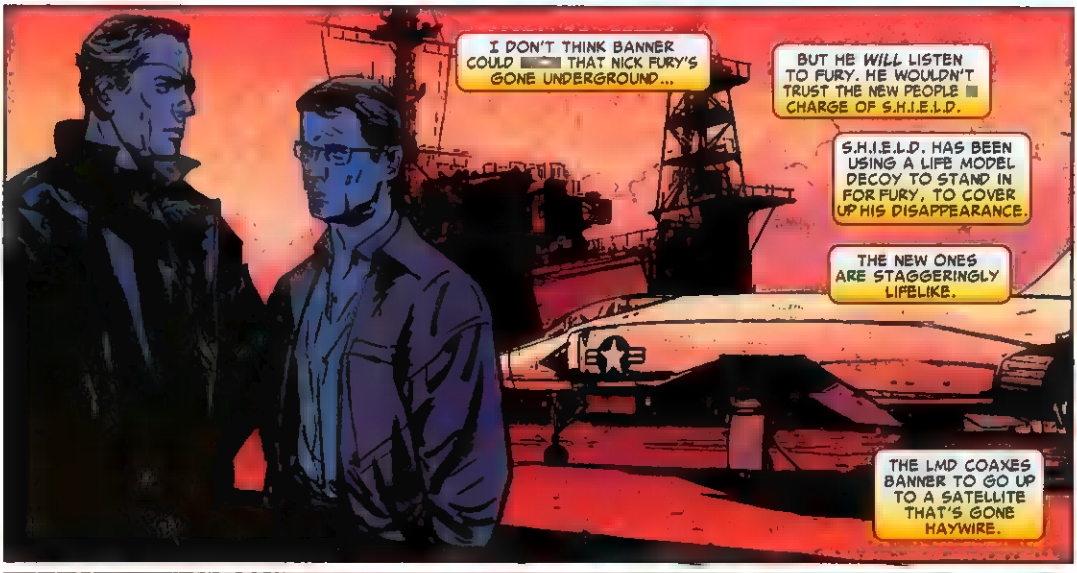
IF HE COULD KILL HIMSELF, HE WOULD HAVE, LONG AGO.
AND STILL I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT KILLING HIM!!
I'M TALKING ABOUT SENDING HIM AWAY!!
THIS ISN'T ABOUT BANNER!! THIS IS ABOUT WANDA MAXIMOFF, THE SCARLET WITCH!!
YOU'RE GOING TO PUNISH BANNER FOR WHAT SHE DID TO YOU AND YOUR AVENGERS!
YOU COULDN'T CONTROL HER, SO YOU'RE GOING TO PUNISH HIM!!!
NAMOR, THAT REALLY IS--
AND I'M TELLING YOU PEOPLE NOW, IF THIS CONVERSATION CONTINUES--!
THOSE IN FAVOR?

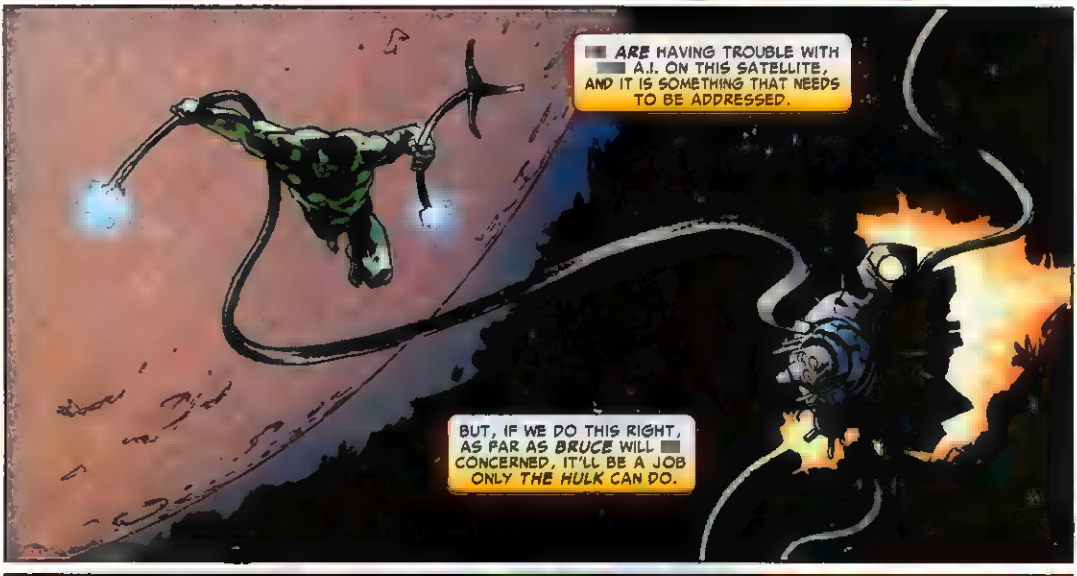
NAMOR--
I'M WARNING YOU RIGHT NOW! IF ONE MOVE ■ MADE TOWARDS HIM...I'M GOING TO--
NAMOR!
THE PROBLEM WITH YOU IS--YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR WHAT HE BELIEVES IN.
WE'RE ALL WARRIORS. WE'RE ALL WILLING.
NO, YOU'RE A WARRIOR.
I'M A KING.
NOT UP HERE. YOU'RE NOT.
BOOM

NAMOR!!
NO!
UNHAND ME!
NAMOR!
SSHHAAMM
SSHHAAMM


STOP RESISTING MY ENCHANTMENTS, NAMOR!!
YOU KNOW BETTER!!

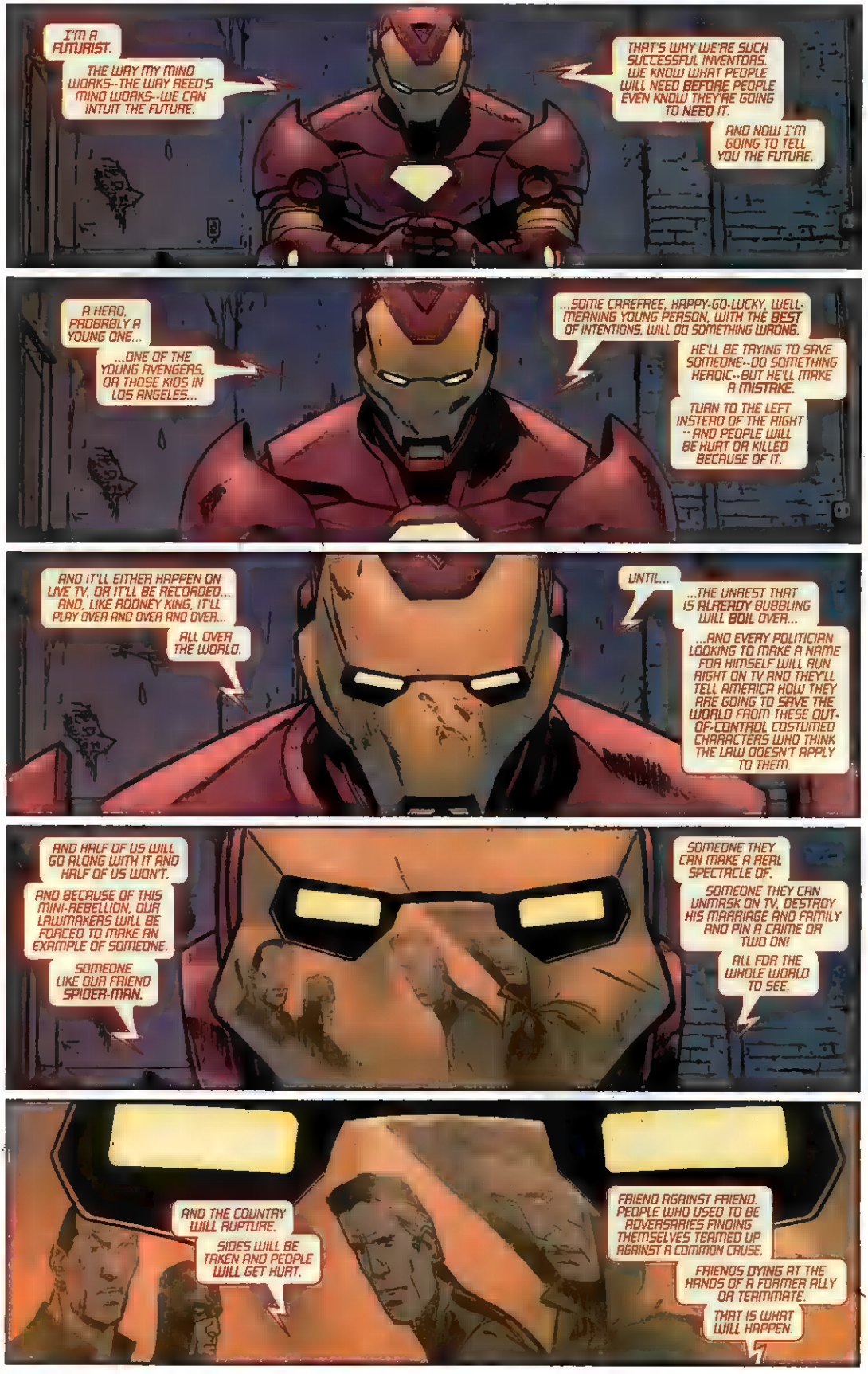
UNBELIEVABLE, NAMOR!!
JUST COMPLETELY AMAZING TO ME HOW YOU NEVER CHANGE.
AND YOU'RE FOOLS, COMPLETE FOOLS!!!
ALL OF YOU!!
COFF!!
COFF COFF!!
THE GROUP HAS VOTED.
YOU'VE KNOWN HIM YOUR WHOLE LIFE, STRANGE.
AND I WANT HIM TO BE HAPPY!
[redacted] WILL COME BACK FROM WHENCE YOU SEND HIM AND HE WILL KILL YOU ALL!
AND HE'LL BE RIGHT!
LET HIM GO...
KING T'CHALLA WAS RIGHT, TOO.
COFF!
IT'S A SATELLITE. I HELPED DESIGN IT...


I DON'T THINK BANNER COULD [redacted] THAT NICK FURY'S GONE UNDERGROUND...
BUT HE *WILL* LISTEN TO FURY. HE WOULDN'T TRUST THE NEW PEOPLE [redacted] CHARGE OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS BEEN USING A LIFE MODEL DECOY TO STAND IN FOR FURY, TO COVER UP HIS DISAPPEARANCE.
THE NEW ONES ARE STAGGERINGLY LIFELIKE.
THE LMD COAXES BANNER TO GO UP TO A SATELLITE THAT'S GONE HAYWIRE.


[redacted] *ARE* HAVING TROUBLE WITH [redacted] A.I. ON THIS SATELLITE, AND IT IS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED.
BUT, IF WE DO THIS RIGHT, AS FAR AS *BRUCE* WILL [redacted] CONCERNED, IT'LL BE A JOB ONLY *THE HULK* CAN DO.

WE JUST NEED HIM TO GET INSIDE.
AND FROM THERE, THE A.I. CAN DISTRACT HIM WHILE WE SEND IT WHERE HE CAN'T HURT ANYONE AND NO ONE CAN HURT HIM.
I'M SORRY, BRUCE.
BUT [redacted] YOUR SAKE AND OURS, WE'RE SENDING YOU AWAY. IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SURE.

GENTLEMEN?
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
DOCTOR STRANGE IS ON HIS WAY.
XAVIER'S BEEN MISSING SINCE THE HOUSE OF M.
XAVIER STILL MISSING?
AND WE ASSUME THE WORST?
IT WOULD BE NAIVE NOT TO.
WELL THEN, BRAVO TO ALL OF YOU FOR ANOTHER DISASTER AVERTED.
WHY ARE YOU EVEN *HERE*, NAMOR?


I'M A FUTURIST.
THE WAY MY MIND WORKS--THE WAY REED'S MIND WORKS--WE CAN INTUIT THE FUTURE.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE SUCH SUCCESSFUL INVENTORS. WE KNOW WHAT PEOPLE WILL NEED BEFORE PEOPLE EVEN KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO NEED IT.
AND NOW I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THE FUTURE.
A HERO, PROBABLY A YOUNG ONE...
...ONE OF THE YOUNG AVENGERS, OR THOSE KIDS IN LOS ANGELES...
...SOME CAREFREE, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, WELL-MEANING YOUNG PERSON, WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, WILL DO SOMETHING WRONG.
HE'LL BE TRYING TO SAVE SOMEONE--DO SOMETHING HEROIC--BUT HE'LL MAKE A MISTAKE.
TURN TO THE LEFT INSTEAD OF THE RIGHT -- AND PEOPLE WILL BE HURT OR KILLED BECAUSE OF IT.
AND IT'LL EITHER HAPPEN ON LIVE TV, OR IT'LL BE RECORDED... AND, LIKE RODNEY KING, IT'LL PLAY OVER AND OVER AND OVER...
ALL OVER THE WORLD.
UNTIL...
...THE UNREST THAT IS ALREADY BUBBLING WILL BOIL OVER...
...AND EVERY POLITICIAN LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF WILL RUN RIGHT ON TV AND THEY'LL TELL AMERICA HOW THEY ARE GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THESE OUT-OF-CONTROL COSTUMED CHARACTERS WHO THINK THE LAW DOESN'T APPLY TO THEM.
AND HALF OF US WILL GO ALONG WITH IT AND HALF OF US WON'T.
AND BECAUSE OF THIS MINI-REBELLION, OUR LAWMAKERS WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF SOMEONE.
SOMEONE LIKE OUR FRIEND SPIDER-MAN.
SOMEONE THEY CAN MAKE A REAL SPECTACLE OF.
SOMEONE THEY CAN UNMASK ON TV, DESTROY HIS MARRIAGE AND FAMILY AND PIN A CRIME OR TWO ON!
ALL FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO SEE.
AND THE COUNTRY WILL RUPTURE.
SIDES WILL BE TAKEN AND PEOPLE WILL GET HURT.
FRIEND AGAINST FRIEND. PEOPLE WHO USED TO BE ADVERSARIES FINDING THEMSELVES TEAMED UP AGAINST A COMMON CAUSE.
FRIENDS DYING AT THE HANDS OF A FORMER ALLY OR TEAMMATE.
THAT IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

BUT IF WE COME TO THEM NOW AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL THE HEROES...
...COOPERATE AND INCORPORATE OURSELVES INTO THE PROCESS...
...WE CAN DIFFUSE IT.
CAN I HEAR THE PART WHERE YOU TELL US THAT IF [redacted] WOULD HAVE CREATED THIS DELEGATION OF HEROES YOU FANTASIZED ABOUT YEARS AGO, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE EVER HAPPENED?
YES.
YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO ME THEN. AND I'M BEGGING YOU TO LISTEN TO ME NOW.
YOU BROUGHT IT ON YOURSELVES. THIS IS A SURFACE WORLD SITUATION.
THEY'LL COME FOR YOU IN ATLANTIS, TOO.
NO. THAT WOULD [redacted] AN ACT OF WAR.
MOST PROBABLY YOU'LL DESTROY YOURSELVES BEFORE THEY EVEN CONSIDER US...
[redacted] IT'LL BE OUR PLANET AGAIN.
EITHER WAY, WE'RE [redacted] WITH IT.
UM...
...ITS WRONG.

DOCTOR.
IT'S WRONG.
IT'S GIVING IN TO OTHER PEOPLES' IGNORANCE AND FEAR.
AND A LOT OF OUR PEERS WILL FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS.
TO THE DEATH.
DOCTOR RICHARDS, [redacted] TELL ME YOU--
TONY'S RIGHT.
MY GOD.
HE'S COMPLETELY RIGHT.
I GUESS WE'RE DONE HERE.
NEVER CALL UPON ME AGAIN.
WELL.
I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH US, BLACK BOLT. I--
I THINK I GOT THE GIST.
WELL, I HAVE TO GO HOME AND FIGHT WITH MY WIFE ABOUT THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS I HEAR SOMETHING.
IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED.

HE WHAT?
THESE GUYS ARE TOTALLY OUT OF OUR LEAGUE, MAN. NO WAY WE SHOULD BE GOING IN THERE.
BUT THINK ABOUT THE RATINGS, MICROBE. THIS COULD BE THE BEST EPISODE OF THE ENTIRE SECOND SEASON.
SIX MONTHS WE'VE BEEN DRIVING AROUND THE MIDWEST LOOKING FOR GOOFBALLS TO FIGHT, AND THE BEST WE'VE MANAGED SO FAR WAS A BUM WITH A SPRAY CAN AND A WOODEN LEG.
THIS COULD BE THE EPISODE THAT REALLY PUTS NEW WARRIORS ON THE MAP, DUDE. WE BEAT THESE GUYS AND PEOPLE STOP BITCHING ABOUT NOVA LEAVING THE SHOW TO GO BACK INTO SPACE.
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?
THE PLAN IS YOU SPEND FIVE MORE MINUTES IN MAKEUP, NAMORITA. YOU THINK PEOPLE WANNA SEE THAT GREAT BIG UGLY ZIT ON YOUR CHIN?
THEN WE--
UH-OH.
WHASSUP?
WE'VE [redacted]EN MARKED.

EVERYONE IN COSTUME!
IT'S A RAID!
GO!
HOLY JEEZ!

OOF!
I'D HEARD THAT CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN, SPEEDFREEK...
...AND IN YOUR CASE IT'S TOTALLY TRUE!
UNGH!
SOUND WAS OFF FOR A SECOND THERE, BUD. ANY CHANCE OF THAT LAST PART AGAIN?
SURE.
AND IN YOUR CASE IT'S TOTALLY TRUE, CHUCKLES!
UNGH!

WAIT A MINUTE. I KNOW YOU GUYS. YOU'RE THOSE IDIOTS FROM THAT REALITY SHOW. I'M NOT GETTING TAKEN DOWN BY GOLDFISH-GIRL AND THE BONDAGE QUEEN.
BEG TO DIFFER, COLDHEART.
COULD WE CUT OUT THE PART WHERE SHE CALLED ME THE BONDAGE QUEEN?
OH, YEAH. BECAUSE NIGHT THRASHER SOUNDS SO MUCH STRAIGHTER.
GOT MY BEASTIES RUSTING COBALT MAN IF ANYONE WANTS TO TRACK DOWN THAT OLD CAPTAIN MARVEL VILLAIN.

ON IT.
ON YOUR FEET, NITRO. AND DON'T TRY ANY OF YOUR STUPID EXPLOSIONS BECAUSE THAT'S ONLY GOING TO MAKE ME HIT YOU HARDER.
SCHOOL BUS
NAMORITA, RIGHT? AREN'T YOU THE SUB-MARINER'S COUSIN OR SOMETHING? WELL, I'M AFRAID WE'RE NOT THE BARGAIN BASEMENT LOSERS YOU GUYS ARE USED TO, BABY...